

Application No. 10/767,109
Amendment dated May 16, 2007
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of January 16, 2007

CLAIM LISTING

1-23 (*Canceled*)

24. (*Currently Amended*) A method of treating a region of tissue within a cranial cavity of a body, comprising:

advancing an elongate body into [the] a cranial cavity, [the] said elongate body having [a] an automatically controllable proximal portion and a selectively steerable distal portion[,] the elongate device having a plurality of segments;

selectively steering the said selectively steerable distal portion to assume a selected curve along a desired path within the body said cranial cavity which avoids contact with tissue; and

further advancing [the] said elongate body through [the] said cranial cavity and towards the region of tissue to be treated while controlling the said automatically controllable proximal portion of the instrument said elongate body with an electronic motion controller to assume the said selected curve of the said selectively steerable distal portion.

25. (*Currently Amended*) A method of treating a region of tissue within a thoracic cavity of a body, comprising:

advancing an elongate body into [the] a thoracic cavity, [the] said elongate body having [a] an automatically controllable proximal portion and a selectively steerable distal portion[,] the elongate device having a plurality of segments;

selectively steering the said selectively steerable distal portion to assume a selected curve along a desired path within the body said thoracic cavity which avoids contact with tissue; and

further advancing [the] said elongate body through [the] said thoracic cavity and towards the region of tissue to be treated while controlling the said automatically controllable proximal portion of the instrument said elongate body with an electronic motion controller to assume the said selected curve of the said selectively steerable distal portion.

26. (*Currently Amended*) A method of treating a region of tissue within a peritoneal cavity of a body, comprising:

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advancing an elongate body into [the] said peritoneal cavity, [the] said elongate body having [a] an automatically controllable proximal portion and a selectively steerable distal portion[,] the elongate device having a plurality of segments;

selectively steering the said selectively steerable distal portion to assume a selected curve along a desired path within ~~the body~~ said peritoneal cavity which avoids contact with tissue; and

further advancing [the] said elongate body through [the] said peritoneal cavity and towards the region of tissue to be treated while controlling the said automatically controllable proximal portion of the instrument said elongate body with an electronic motion controller to assume the said selected curve of the said selectively steerable distal portion.

27. (New) The method according to Claims 24-26 wherein advancing said elongate body comprises percutaneously advancing the elongate body towards the region of tissue to be treated.

28. (New) The method according to Claim 24 further comprising creating an incision prior to advancing said elongate device through said incision.

29. (New) The method according to Claim 25 further comprising creating an incision prior to advancing said elongate device through said incision.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 26 further comprising creating an incision prior to advancing said elongate device through said incision.

31. (New) The method according to Claim 25, wherein advancing said elongate device comprises advancing said elongate device through an opening defined in the heart.

32. (New) The method according to Claim 25, wherein advancing said elongate device comprises advancing said elongate device through an opening defined in an intercostal space.

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33. (New) The method according to Claim 24 further comprising treating the region of tissue to be treated.

34. (New) The method according to Claim 33 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises delivering an instrument to the region of tissue through said elongate body.

35. (New) The method according to Claim 33 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises treating the region via an apparatus integral with said elongate body.

36. (New) The method according to Claim 25 further comprising treating the region of tissue to be treated.

37. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises delivering an instrument to the region of tissue through said elongate body.

38. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises treating the region via an apparatus integral with said elongate body.

39. (New) The method according to Claim 26 further comprising treating the region of tissue to be treated.

40. (New) The method according to Claim 39 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises delivering an instrument to the region of tissue through said elongate body.

41. (New) The method according to Claim 39 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises treating the region via an apparatus integral with said elongate body.

42. (New) The method of Claims 24-26, wherein selectively steering comprises selecting the curve with reduces contact with the tissue.

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43. (*New*) The method of Claims 24-26, wherein selectively steering comprises avoiding contact with anatomical structures with the body.

44. (*New*) The method of Claims 24-26, wherein further advancing said elongate body comprises advancing the device through tissue adjacent to the region of tissue to be treated.